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Regional Water Quality
Control Board,
Central Valley Region

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Public Notice –
Remedial Action Plan
FMC Modesto

PUBLIC NOTICE

FMC Corporation – Modesto Site
1200 Graphics Drive, Modesto CA

Public Notice: The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) invites public comment on a remedial action work plan for the FMC Modesto site at 1200 Graphics Drive, Modesto, Stanislaus County CA (Site).

This Public Notice fact sheet provides general information on the Site. A map showing the location of the Site is attached (Figure 1).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 10 August – 10 September 2020

CASE SUMMARY:

The 43-acre site historically was used primarily to manufacture barium products, and to a lesser extent strontium products, from ores that were brought to the Site. The facility operated from the late 1920's until 1984. By March 1985, the manufacturing facility had been dismantled. The site is currently mostly undeveloped and unoccupied.

Unlined on-site evaporation ponds were historically used to manage waste materials from the Site industrial processes. The wastes in the ponds were reported to include barium and strontium sulfate and carbonate, calcium hydroxide, coke/carbon, barium and strontium sulfide, iron and aluminum oxides, and water. Between 1979 and 1981, approximately 286,000 cubic yards of soil were excavated from the evaporation ponds and disposed offsite.

Investigations and interim remedial measures have been conducted at the Site since the 1990's. During 2006 and 2007, approximately 20,000 tons of soil were excavated and disposed offsite to bring barium, arsenic, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) concentrations to industrial use, risk-based levels.

Groundwater beneath the site has been impacted with sulfate, sulfide, total dissolved solids (TDS) and pH. Groundwater remediation (extraction and treatment) has been performed since 1996. On-going monitoring documents the remediation system has adequately kept the impacted groundwater from migrating offsite. In general, contaminant concentrations are decreasing, and the plumes are contracting.

FMC developed a numerical groundwater model, which indicated that groundwater cleanup times would be significantly reduced if groundwater recharge (i.e., the infiltration of stormwater) is reduced by 90 percent.

The proposed remedy for the site entails reducing groundwater recharge by 90 percent in the former pond areas by constructing low permeability cap-like structures (e.g., roads and buildings). Land use covenants will be placed on the property restricting land use to industrial and commercial use and restricting how soils are managed. Groundwater remediation will continue to operate and will be carefully monitored for effectiveness.

Central Valley Water Board staff concur with the work plan and selected remedy. This remedial action work plan is now open to the public for comments and concerns for a period of 30 days.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Historical reports and the remedial action work plan can be viewed by accessing the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker respective website at:

https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile_report.asp?global_id=SL185742938

The case file for the Site is also available for review at the Central Valley Water Board office located at 11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. To make an appointment for a file review, please call (916) 464-4651.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Any interested individual can learn more about the case by contacting either Mr. Walter Floyd with the Central Valley Water Board or Ms. Aimee Zack with FMC. Written comments regarding concerns or issues on the planned regulatory closure for the Site must be submitted to Walter Floyd at the Central Valley Water Board by **10 September 2020**.

Mr. Walter Floyd
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 464-4651
Walter.Floyd@waterboards.ca.gov

Ms. Aimee Zack
FMC Corporation
2929 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 299-6468
Aimeee.Zack@fmc.com

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